was given to ensure operationalisation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-IIIB at Delhi Airport by mid of December, 2005. Airlines have also been exhorted to speed up the training of their pilots to use the Cat-III System. The Advanced Surveillance Movement Guidance & Control System (ASMGCS) installed at Delhi airport is under testing and expected to be operational by 15th December, 2005.

Rescheduling of flights due to Fog

1384. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether international airlines have decided to fly only during day time during the ensuring winter season in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of such international airlines in this regard;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to remove the fog from the IGI airport to avoid fog related delays and cancellation; and

(d) what facilities shall be provided to the passengers in case of delay or cancellation of the flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A few international airlines have decided to fly during day time during the ensuing winter season in Delhi. Details are as under:—

Jet Airways, British Airways, Cathay Pacific Airlines, Emirates, Kuwait Airways, Malaysis Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Qatar Airways, Royal Jordanian, Singapore Airlines, Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Thai Airways, Turkish Airlines, Srilankan Airlines and China Airlines.

(c) Efforts are continuously made to reduce cancellation/ rescheduling of flights due to fog. Regular meetings have been convened in the Ministry of Civil Aviation with the representatives of Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India Meteorological Department (IMD), airlines and other agencies. Strees was given to ensure operationalisation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-IIIB at Delhi Airport by mid of December, 2005. The Advanced Surveillance Movement Guidance & Control System (ASMGCS) installed at Delhi airport is under testing and expected to be operational by 15th December, 2005.

(d) Various facilities likely to be provided to the passengers in case of delay/cancellation of flights *inter-alia*, include supply of additional foodstuff, mineral water, tea, coffee and beverages, forcasting of Meteorological Information regularly at an interval of six hours, provisions of special counters to disseminate flight information, provision of additional chairs in all the terminals, prompt display of flight delays, positioning of additional personal for toilet cleaning, deployment of additional man power to look after congestion and customs Immigration X-ray machines and security. Besides, Airport Directors of Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Bhubaneshwar and Vadodara have been advised to gear up existing facilities like parking bays, safety services and increased watch hours for air traffic services to handle diverted air traffic from Delhi airport.

Hike in domestic airfares

1385. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic airfares were hiked during early November, 2005 without any reasons or rationale, just to exploit the surge in Diwali demand;and

(b) whether the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel has come down by about 3 per cent in the same period and if so, why the airlines are not passing on the benefit to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government does not regulate the air fares and airlines are free to determine the same in accordance with their commercial judgement and market forces. However, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air Domestic Rupee Fares were increased by 10% with effect from 18th October, 2005, This was necessitated due to substantial increase in ATF prices by over 39% over the average ATF price of Rs. 27,500/KL in 2004-05. The increase in operating cost of this magnitude could not be absorbed by the Company